

REMARKS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 the “Amendments to the Claims” section of the amendment dated December 5, 2006 has been revised and incorporated in this “Letter to the Examiner”. The “Notice of Non-compliant Amendment” dated February 12, 2007 required this revision.

The “Amendments to the Claims” section of the amendment dated December 5, 2006 has been replaced by the above “Amendments to the Claims” section in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121 and MPEP 714 to correct the deficiencies noted in the “Notice of Non-compliant Amendment”.

When the amendment dated December 5, 2006 was prepared, withdrawn claims 11 to 16 were inadvertently omitted from the claims section. These claims were not amended, but should have been listed in the “amendments to the claims” section of that amendment in accordance with the rules. The above changes correct this deficiency and correctly label the withdrawn claims 11 to 16 as “withdrawn”.

Furthermore the new claims were misnumbered because the existence of the withdrawn claims was inadvertently not considered when the new claims were numbered. Consequently the new claims have been renumbered and their dependencies changed when the replacement “claims” section was prepared.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put

this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/ Michael J. Striker /

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